

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBABAN 01809 071822Z

42

ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 374

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, WZ

SUBJECT: 4-H PROGRAM IN SWAZILAND

REF: MBABANE 1786, STATE 248717

1. PURSUANT REFTEL CHARGE MET OCTOBER 7 WITH SENIOR AGRICULTURAL OFFICER R.D. THWALA (IN ABSENCE OF MAINA, WHO ON EXTENDED LEAVE) TO DETERMINE GOS CURRENT THINKING ON 4-H STAFFING IN SWAZILAND:

A. MINAG HAS RECEIVED NO WORD FROM 4-H HEADQUARTERS RE ASSIGNMENT OF SECOND PARTICIPANT. ONLY INDICATION HAS BEEN ORAL NOTIFICATION BY CURRENT 4-H PARTICIPANT JANE GRIFFITH, WHEREAS MINAG DESIRES WORD DIRECTLY FROM THOMPSON.

B. THOMPSON SHOULD INFORM MINAG SOONEST OF FIRM ARRIVAL DATES FOR BOTH FIRST PARTICIPANT (MR. BRUMMER) AND SECOND (MS. BACKMAN). MINAG UNABLE MAKE SOLID PLANS ON BASIS OF "APPROXIMATELY OCTOBER 23" DATE GIVEN FOR BRUMMER; NO TIMING RECEIVED FOR BACKMAN.

C. ON QUESTION OF GOS SUPPORT, THWALA CONCEDED THAT LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS HAD ARISEN IN CASE OF PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS. HE SAID A SECOND VEHICLE HAD "JUST BEEN RECEIVED," WHICH WOULD ENABLE EACH PARTICIPANT TO HAVE TRANSPORT. ON HOUSING, THWALA SAID PROBLEM HAD ARISEN WITH RECENTLY DEPARTED PARTICIPANT, WHO HAD INSISTED ON PRIVATE HOUSING (NOT MERELY PRIVATE BEDROOM) WHICH HAD NOT BECOME
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PAGE 02 MBABAN 01809 071822Z

AVAILABLE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS; CURIOUSLY ENOUGH, ONCE PRIVATE

HOUSING BECAME AVAILABLE, THIS SAME PARTICIPANT SOUGHT SOMEONE TO SHARE THOSE QUARTERS. THWALA SAID IF NEW PARTICIPANTS, ONE TO BE ASSIGNED TO MBABANE CENTRAL OFFICE AND ONE TO A FIELD LOCATION, WOULD BE WILLING TO SHARE QUARTERS WITH COLLEAGUES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS LODGING WOULD BE NO PROBLEM IF EITHER NEW PARTICIPANT HOLDS OUT FOR SOLE OCCUPANCY OF HOUSE AND NOT MERELY PRIVATE BEDROOM, HOWEVER, LODGING MIGHT RPT MIGHT BE A PROBLEM.

D. ON ISSUE OF UTILIZATION OF PARTICIPANTS, THWALA SAID THAT PROJECT STILL IN RELATIVE INFANCY AND THAT THERE WAS PLENTY OF ROOM FOR INPUT BY WELL-MOTIVATED AND ADJUSTABLE INDIVIDUALS. HE HINTED THAT EARLIER PARTICIPANT'S UNDER-UTILIZATION WAS PROBLEM PARTLY OF HIS OWN MAKING.

2. THWALA ASKED EMBASSY HAVE THOMPSON COMMUNICATE SOONEST WITH MINAG, USING "PERMANENT SECRETARY" (WITHOUT NAME) AS ADDRESSEE. THWALA SAID THIS ADDRESS WOULD PREVENT LETTER FROM LYING UNOPENED FOR WEEKS OR MONTHS IN EVENT PERMSEC CHANGED OR PERMSEC ABSENT ON MISSION OR LEAVE. THWALA COUNSELED AGAINST DIRECTING COMMUNICATION TO MAINA (STATE REFTTEL), SAYING THAT PERMSEC IS APPROPRIATE ADDRESSEE.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES ITS DISCUSSION WITH MINAG WAS PRODUCTIVE TO EXTENT IT UNDERScored OUR INTEREST IN GOS SUPPORT FOR, AND USE OF, 4-H PARTICIPANTS. WE WILLING ACCEPT THWALA'S ORAL ASSURANCES AND HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH ASSIGNMENT OF TWO PARTICIPANTS, ONE CU-FUNDED AND ONE PRIVATELY FUNDED. ESSENTIAL, HOWEVER, THAT THOMPSON BE MADE AWARE OF HOUSING CAVEAT IN PARA 1C ABOVE.

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